

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 93. (canceled)

94. (currently amended): A server, which communicates with a plurality of client computers through a computer network, for discriminating log-in information received from each client computer, and transmitting data of an order screen used by a user for the purpose of ordering a new consumable, to a logged-in client computer, said server comprising:

a first input section, arranged to input order data of a new consumable inputted by a user who uses the order screen displayed on a monitor of the logged-in client computer;

a second input section, arranged to input collecting data of a used consumable returned from the user;

a database which stores the order data and the collecting data in relation with the log-in information;

a first calculator, arranged to calculate a collecting rate from a plurality of the order data and a plurality of the collecting data stored in said database;

a second calculator, arranged to calculate incentive data based on a plurality of the order data and a plurality of the collecting data stored in said database ~~the collecting rate in a unit of the log-in information;~~

an exception handler, arranged to send an inquiry to the user regarding why the collecting rate is greater than 100%, and suspend operation of said second calculator if the user does not respond or adjust the collecting rate otherwise;

a generator, arranged to generate price data of the new consumable in accordance with the incentive data in the unit of the log-in information; and

a provider, arranged to provide the logged-in client computer with the price data corresponding to the log-in information of that client computer to display a price of the new consumable on the order screen, and, in response to an instruction of the user, to provide the logged-in client computer with data of a confirmation screen to be displayed to the user, which includes the order data, the collecting rate, and the incentive data as a discount rate of a new consumable corresponding to the log-in information of that client computer, ~~to report a collection rate of the used consumable, and the incentive data as a discount rate of a new consumable to the user.~~

95. - 99. (canceled)

100. (currently amended): A method of controlling a server, which communicates with a plurality of client computers through a computer network, for discriminating log-in information received from each client computer, and transmitting data of an order screen used by a user for the purpose of ordering a new consumable, to a logged-in client computer, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting order data of a new consumable inputted by a user who uses the order screen displayed on a monitor of the logged-in client computer;

inputting collecting data of a used consumable returned from a user;

storing the order data and the collecting data in relation with the log-in information to a database;

calculating a collecting rate from a plurality of the order data and a plurality of the collecting data stored in said database;

~~calculating the user's incentive data based on a plurality of the order data and a plurality of the collecting data stored in the database~~ the collecting rate in a unit of the log-in information;

sending an inquiry to the user regarding why the collecting rate is greater than 100%, and suspending operation of the said second calculating step if the user does not respond or adjust the collecting rate otherwise;

generating price data of the new consumable in accordance with the user's incentive data in the unit of the log-in information;

providing the logged-in client computer with the price data corresponding to the log-in information of that to display a price of the new consumable on the order screen;

and

providing, in response to an instruction of the user, the logged-in client computer with data of a confirmation screen to be displayed to the user, which includes the order data, the collecting data, a collection rate, and the incentive data as a discount rate of a new consumable corresponding to the log-in information of that client computer; ~~to report a collection rate of the used consumable, and the incentive data as a discount rate of a new consumable to the user.~~

101. - 103. (canceled)

104. (currently amended): A computer program stored on a computer readable-readible storage medium ~~having~~ storing, in executable form, a computer program code for a method of controlling a server, which communicates with a plurality of client computers through a computer network, for discriminating log-in information received from each client computer, and transmitting data of an order screen used by a user for the purpose of ordering a new consumable, to a logged-in client computer, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting order data of a new consumable inputted by a user who uses the order screen displayed on a monitor of the logged-in client computer;

inputting collecting data of a used consumable returned from a user;
storing the order data and the collecting data in relation with the log-in information to a database;

calculating a collecting rate from a plurality of the order data and a plurality of the collecting data stored in said database:

calculating incentive data based on ~~a plurality of the order data and a plurality of the collecting data stored in the database~~ the collecting rate in a unit of the log-in information;

sending an inquiry to the user regarding why the collecting rate is greater than 100%, and suspending operation of said second calculator if the user does not respond or adjusting the collecting rate otherwise:

generating price data of the new consumable in accordance with the incentive data in the unit of the log-in information;

providing the logged-in client computer with the price data in corresponding to the log-in information of that to display a price of the new consumable on the order screen; and

providing, in response to an instruction of the user, the logged-in client computer with data of a confirmation screen to be displayed to the user, which includes the order data, the collecting data, a collection rate, and the incentive data as a discount rate of a new consumable corresponding to the log-in information of that client computer; ~~to report a collection rate of the used consumable, and the incentive data as a discount rate of a new consumable to the user.~~

105. - 107. (canceled)

108. (previously presented): The server according to claim 94, wherein the collecting data includes data indicating a kind of the used consumable, wherein said calculator calculates (i) a first incentive corresponding to a collecting state indicated by the plurality of the collecting data in a unit of the kind of the used consumable, and (ii) a second incentive corresponding to an order state of the new consumable indicated by the plurality of the order data, and wherein said calculator calculates the incentive data using the first and second incentives.

109. (previously presented): The server according to claim 108, wherein the order data includes data indicating a kind of the new consumable, and said calculator calculates the second incentive in a unit of the kind of the new consumable.